

Saturday, March 13

9th Annual 'Dine With The Chefs' Event A Huge Success!



We were pleased again this year to photograph the Meals on Wheels annual Dine with the Chefs event this year at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The event is billed as a Culinary Experience, and in deed it certainly is described correctly. Many of the regions greatest chefs donate their time while their employers donate the food that is provided for this multiple course meal. The fund raiser is one of the largest events that the Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana has to raise funds helping them assist area seniors with nutrition while preserving dignity. This years event was proud to have Enid A. Borden, the Meals on Wheels Association of America's president and CEO give the keynote address. Sandra L. Noe, the Executive Director of the local Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana also provided keen insight about the local need in Northwest Indiana.

The event was attended by about 375 diners/supporters who enjoyed Hors d'oeuvres as well as a silent auction all while enjoying music by members of the NISO and Emerson High School's Band department. The chefs, 16 in all, were led by Chef David Siano with assistance by Chef Jim Galligan. They all had a blast preparing appetizers, soups and entrees for the guests to enjoy. Each chef provided one course as well as the recipe for a keepsake book for attendees.



It is amazing watching these chefs work together to get out that many meals all prepared to perfection. The Avalon allows us access to the entire operation and Jodi and I are like kids in a candy store since we are allowed to capture some very cool kitchen preparation photos. Foodies at heart, we are often bumping into each other while trying to get the next great foodie photo! It is a lot of fun and just getting to know the genuine chefs from some of our favorite places to eat in the area is rewarding. The chefs work very hard to support the charity. We are honored to provide our services to Sandra and her wonderful staff each year as our donation to this worthy event. Enjoy the video which highlight the event as it unfolded on March 7, 2010. For more information about senior hunger in our area, visit their website at:

<http://www.mealsonwheelsnwindiana.org/> -Rick Bella for bella photography

<http://www.bellaphotographs.com/>